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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 8, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again we come to You to ask wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House.

Give them the generosity of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation. This might call for compromise, even sacrifice on both sides. As true statesmen and -women, may they find the fortitude to make judgments to benefit all Americans in their time of need.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GONE ROGUE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Justice Department appears to have gone rogue. Instead of enforcing the law, they seem to be recklessly encouraging violations of law.

The Justice Department, with the aid of the ATF, apparently facilitated the smuggling of over 2,000 weapons to the drug cartels south of the border—the national enemy of Mexico. Those weapons were used to kill at least 200 Mexican nationals and two U.S. law enforcement agents.

Who is responsible for this conduct? The Attorney General says he was unaware of Fast and Furious. He claims he either didn't get the memo or he didn't read it. That's a lame excuse. The Attorney General is the chief lawyer and law enforcement officer in the country. If people under him violated U.S. or international law, they need to be held accountable, even if it means somebody goes to jail.

We need an independent special counsel to investigate the Justice Department and the ATF. The Department of Justice cannot be trusted to investigate themselves because the agency has lost credibility. Even Washington insiders responsible for Fast and Furious cannot hide from the long arm of American justice because justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Wall Street may be in disrepute with most Americans, but their power here, their political power in Congress, is undiminished.

Americans strongly support a consumer watchdog, the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but the CFPB has become Republicans' new least favorite agency, which greatly pleases their friends on Wall Street.

Months ago, Republicans in the other body announced that they would block the confirmation of the first Director

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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